



Docket No.: K0600.0208/P208

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Shiro Fujieda

Application No.: 09/445,304

Filed: December 6, 1999

For:

IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, MEDIUM STORING PROGRAM FOR IMAGE PROCESSING,

AND INSPECTION APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 2623

Examiner: V. Kibler

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Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date, OR more than three months after the date of entry of the national stage of a PCT application, AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs first, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is:

[] not given

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[] given for each listed item

[] given for only non-English language listed items

[x] in the form of an English language copy of Notification of Reasons of Refusal from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references

While the information and references disclosed in this Information Disclosure Statement may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

Please charge our Credit Card in the amount of \$180.00 covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p). Credit Card Payment Form SB-2038, with a signature from an authorized cardholder, is enclosed. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. K0600.0208/P208.

Dated: January 13, 2002

Respectfully submitted,

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